[Mr. K. Kunju Panickar.]

(*b*) whether banana is an alternative food in the absence of rice ; and

(*c*) whether by the export of banana flour, the price of banana has increased enormously ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is a valuable supplementary food material but not an alternative for rice.

(*c*) The price has increased.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : May I know whether tapioca may be used as a substitute for rice ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : May be used as a supplement.

Paddy Seeds.

66. ***MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to introduce into Travancore selected and new varieties of paddy seeds with a view to improving the cultivation ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : A *statement of the measures taken and the results thereof is placed on the table.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : There are three varieties of seeds which have been proving successful and satisfactory and good results were obtained. May I know in which parts of Travancore cultivators use these varieties ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : They are used largely in South Travancore.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : Has there been any advice given to people in the South or North Travancore or Central Travancore about the use of these seeds ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir.

Import of Sugar.

67. ***MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of sugar arranged to be imported into this country ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : A quota of 4,000 tons has been allotted to this State for a period of 12 months, excluding the quantity expected to be produced by the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., which is estimated at 3,000 tons per annum. Negotiations are being carried on to increase the quota on the basis of the State's actual requirements.

Text Books.

68. ***MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the names of the text books accepted by them for teaching in English and Vernacular Schools from Edavom 1115, 1116 and 1117 with the names of the authors and the press publishing them ;

* *Vide* appendix 1.

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(*b*) what are the books accepted for more than one school year and the reasons therefor ;

(*c*) whether the repeated acceptance of the same text books year after year affects the interests of the authors and publishers of new books ;

(*d*) whether they have given any direction about the rate of price fixed by the authors and publishers of school books ;

(*e*) whether the price fixed by certain authors and publishers is exorbitant ;

(*f*) whether there are printing mistakes and want of clearness in some of the school books printed in the Government Press ; and

(*g*) whether they have made any arrangement to avoid such defects in future ?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : (*a*) and (*b*) For the books prescribed during the school year commencing Edavom 1115 (1940-41) the member is referred to pages 268 to 300 of the Education Sheet of the Travancore Government Gazette dated 23-4-1940. The same text books as were prescribed for the year 1940-41 were prescribed for the years 1941-42 and 1942-43 also. The reason for taking this step is the economic distress prevailing in the State and the great scarcity of paper.

(*c*) Yes, to some extent.

(*d*) Prices were revised and fixed when the books were prescribed.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes, in a few instances.

(*g*) Yes.

Shifting of the Munsiff's Court at Perumbavoor to the M. M. School building.

69. ✻ **MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate shifting the Munsiff's Court to the M. M. School building near the Perumbavoor public offices ?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer*) : The matter is under consideration.

Reconstruction of a bund in the Pitcheli Canal.

70. ✻**MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL** (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received any representation regarding the reconstruction of a bund in the Pitcheli Canal in Parakadavu pakuthi, Parur taluk ; and

(*b*) if so, the steps they have taken in the matter ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The necessary investigation has been conducted and a detailed estimate for the work is under preparation.

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